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FIJIAN FIRE FIENDS

NATIVES PLACIDLY WALK ABOUT ON WHITE HOT STONES.

They Tread on and Pro Over the Glowing Furnace in Their Bare Feet and Come Out of the Fiery Ordeal Apparently Uninjured.

There may be seen in the National museum an ordinary, prosaic looking stone which probably escapes the attention of most of the visitors and yet which represents the question as to whether there may not exist in some quarters of the world something like actual bona fide witchcraft, says the Washington Post.

Professor Langley himself brought this stone with him after having witnessed the marvelous spectacle of natives of the Fiji Islands walking barefoot over white hot stones and coming out of the ordeal unscathed. The professor in describing the incident said:

"I saw the spectacle of fire walking in Tahiti. The essential question as to the actual heat of the stones had not then been satisfactorily answered, and after the fourth passage I secured Papa-Ita's (the principal performer) permission to remove from the middle of the pile one stone which from its size and position every foot had rested upon in crossing and which was undoubtedly at least as hot as any of the others trodden on. It was pulled out by my assistants with difficulty. I had brought over the largest wooden bucket which the ship had and which was half filled with water. The stone caused the water to rise nearly to the top of the bucket, and it was thrown into such violent ebullition that a great deal of it boiled over and escaped weighing. The stone was an exceedingly bad conductor of heat, for it continued to boil the water for about twelve minutes, when, the ebullition being nearly over, it was removed to the ship.

"The stone was found to weigh sixty-five pounds. I brought this piece of it to Washington with me and determined its specific gravity to be 2.39, its specific heat 0.19 and its conductivity to be so extremely small that one end of a small fragment could be held in the hand while the other was heated indefinitely in the flame of a blowpipe. This partly defeated the aim of the experiment (to find the temperature of the upper part of the stone), since only the mean temperature was found. This mean temperature of the hottest stone of the upper layer as deduced from the data mentioned was about 1,200 F. The temperature at which such stones begin to show dull red by daylight is approximately 1,300 to 1,400 degrees F."

In other words, this performance of the Fijians is every whit as wonderful as if a man put his naked feet upon white hot coals, let them remain there for a considerable period (for the fire walkers promenade back and forth repeatedly upon the blazing stones) and showed not a trace of the performance.

How account for this? In fact, the theories put forth by eye-witnesses of this modern miracle (a number of them, like Professor Langley, trained scientific observers) are almost as varied as so many philosophical systems.

Some of these observers have contented themselves with the mere superficial remark that the stones were not as hot as they appeared, but Professor Langley's experiment has thoroughly demonstrated the fallacy of this hypothesis. Other observers, again, admit the presence of intense heat and endeavor to call science to their aid in the construction of theories to account for the phenomenon. Professor W. F. Barrett remarks:

"If a white hot ball of metal, preferably of copper, be lowered into a vessel of water containing a little soap in solution, it will enter the water without any ebullition of steam, and the ball will remain white hot in the midst of the water for a considerable time. The ball, in fact, does not touch the water, and the latter remains only slightly warmed until the temperature of the ball falls below a certain point, when it comes in contact with the water, and violent ebullition ensues. The phenomenon is really attributable to a repulsive force, discovered by Sir William Crookes, which occurs when a hot body is brought very near to a cold one."

It has been argued, too, that a similar phenomenon occurs in cases when the human hand is plunged into molten metal and instantly withdrawn, quite unharmed, owing to the rapid evaporation from the surface of the skin, which creates a momentary protection. But it has been pointed out that such experiments call for momentary exposures to the heat, whereas the fire walk lasts a very appreciable time.

It has been furthermore urged that chemical substances, such as the oil from the fat of the green frog or the juice of the aloe plant, are employed by the natives as a protection against the heat. Those putting forth this explanation, it may be remarked, have never been willing to testify to their faith by a practical experiment in their own proper persons. As a matter of fact, chemical authorities may be quoted as saying that there is no known substance which, smeared upon the body, can alone protect it from the scorching heat of an open furnace. Those endeavoring to explain the matter along these lines go on to say that the fire walker is a native of a hot country, walking all day along roads hot enough to blister the feet of a white man. Their soles, unaccustomed to shoes, become tanned like leather. Besides, an oriental inherits much less sensitive nervous organization than the American or European. As a "clincher" is emphasized the frenzy of religious

fervor which sways the performer's mind, rendering him insensible to physical pain—and that is the explanation. This would do very well were the

heat of the stones anywhere within 103 degrees F., the temperature at which albumen coagulates and the substance of the human body disintegrates. But such explanations are ludicrously inadequate where the temperature of the steaming furnace of stones ranges from 600 to 1,200 degrees F. So great is the heat from the stones that observers have sometimes found it impossible to stand within several feet of them. They are grouped in a large mass, forming literally a white hot furnace.

Strange to say, there is a statement made to the Polynesian society by one Colonel Gudgeon, a British resident of Rarotonga, to the effect that he himself had performed the feat of fire walking. The colonel says:

"I can hardly give you my sensations, but I can say this—that I knew quite well I was walking on red hot stones and could feel the heat, yet I was not burned. I felt something resembling slight electric shocks, both at the time and afterward, but that is all. I do not know that I should recommend every one to try it. A man must have 'mana' (the mysterious power) to do it. If he has not it will be too late when he is on the hot stones of Tama-ahiroa."

"To show you the heat of the stones quite half an hour afterward some one remarked to the priest that the stones would not be hot enough to cook the food. His only answer was to throw his green branch on the oven, and in a quarter of a minute it was blazing. I did not walk quickly across the oven, but with deliberation, because I feared that I should tread on a sharp point of the stones and fall. My feet also were very tender. I did not mention the fact, but my impression as I crossed the oven was that the skin would all peel off my feet. Yet all I really felt when the task was accomplished was a tingling sensation not unlike slight electric shocks on the soles of my feet, and this continued for seven hours or more. The really funny thing is that, though the stones were hot enough an hour afterward to burn my green branches of the ti (dracoea), the very tender skin of my feet was not even hardened by the fire."

The doctors of Dunedin, New Zealand, recently subjected some fire walkers to a careful examination immediately after they came from the burning stones. They found the men's feet and hands extremely cold, which gave rise to some suspicion of the use of a local refrigerant. Otherwise the feet were soft and there was no sign of any burn. Dr. Hocken, a well known New Zealand scientist, on a previous occasion even licked the feet of the fire walkers to see if he could trace any chemical, but without result. Dr. Hocken when he witnessed the fire walking provided himself with a thermometer registering up to 400 degrees F. Just before the men walked over the stones the doctor suspended the thermometer over the center of the oven some five or six feet above the stones. It had to be withdrawn at once, as the solder in the case immediately began to melt. It had, however, registered 282 degrees, and Dr. Hocken is sure that if it had been left it would have registered 400 degrees and then burst.

So far as known the bold Colonel Gudgeon has been the only white man to subject himself to the ordeal, and it is to be regretted that there would appear to have been no observers present on that occasion save the natives themselves. Moreover, the gallant colonel acknowledges that he possesses "mana," or the mysterious power. The plain truth appears to be that there is no explaining the phenomenon as witnessed by the authorities quoted.

Language and Character.

"The French language has no word for 'kick,' and the Algonquin has no word for 'love,'" said a philologist. "Thus from a language's characteristics we may learn much about the people using it."

"The French have no word for kick. They are, you see, a polite and refined race, little given to kicking. They have a hundred words for love, though. They differentiate love with a nicety incredible to us Anglo-Saxons. No word for kick, a hundred words for love. Can't you form from that a good idea of the French character?"

"The Algonquins have a wretched time of it. In their language there is no love, and there is no love in their hearts. But kick, bite, beat, punch, rend, pinch, scratch, tear—there is an abundance of such words among the Algonquins, and by putting two and two together we make a fair estimate of the stern, unlovely Algonquin nature."

"The Portuguese have no word for 'wink.' They are deficient in a sense of humor."

"The Sioux have no word for 'steal.' They possess no knowledge of high finance."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

A Lesson in Phenology.

Many inventions have been suggested in dreams, and it should be remembered that the mechanical faculty is situated above the temple, as was first learned from a supposed skull of Raphael and from the head of a milliner who possessed uncommon taste. Self esteem is high on the back of the head. It is always found large in beggars who excuse their poverty on account of pride. On either side of self esteem are the bumps of love of approbation, which are greatly developed, as a rule, in lunatics who imagine they are kings and queens. Benevolence is on top of the head, a little in front of the middle; veneration is in front of benevolence, and wonder is still far-

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FOR SALE—CHOICE RESIDENCE lot, close in; house and lot 75x150; \$1500; easy terms. Apply to C. W. Stone.

160 ACRES OF FIRST CLASS TIMBER land for sale, in Pacific county, near Columbia river. Address Box 690 Astoria, Ore.

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OLD PAPERS FOR SALE AT THIS Office; 25c per hundred.

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FOR SALE—STEAM TUG IN FIRST-class condition; terms reasonable; suitable for seining purposes. For particulars apply at this office.

SCOW FOR SALE AT M'GREGOR'S mill, 21x64; would make a good fish scow. Inquire of Dan Gambel at mill.

NOTICE TO HUNTERS—THOROUGHbred English setters, 8 months old, for sale cheap. 69 Third St.

PROPOSALS INVITED.

NOTICE FOR BIDS—BIDS WILL be received for the foundation and basement of the New St. Mary's Hospital; plans and specifications may be seen at the office of the architect at St. Mary's Hospital; all bids to be in on or before the 25th of this month; right reserved to reject any or all bids. March 6, 1905.

her forward. This last is prominent in psychic researchers and vision seers. Ideality is in the middle of the forehead. It is touched by the hand when one is composing poetry. Nearly every one composes remarkably good poetry in his dreams. If only he could remember it afterward!

Parisian Swindler's Rise.

A traveler remarks that the Parisian swindler is the subtlest and the most indomitable one in the world. He was the other day strolling through a fashionable French shop.

A woman entered and proceeded to purchase a costly set of silver dishes, and meanwhile a well dressed man lingered at the doorway as though waiting for her.

The woman, her purchase concluded, counted a number of bank notes and advanced to the cashier's desk holding them in her hand.

the man rushed upon her. "You wretch!" he exclaimed. "Didn't I tell you that you shouldn't have those dishes?" And he slapped her upon the cheek, tore the bank notes from her hand and stalked indignantly out of the shop.

The woman faintly. It was ten minutes before she was brought to, and meanwhile those in the shop, believing that a family quarrel was in progress, did nothing. On her recovery the manager of the place said regretfully:

"We are sorry, madam, for this occurrence. Your husband?"

"My husband! That was not my husband," the woman cried. "He is a thief!"

She had never seen the man before.—Chicago Tribune.

Chinese Words.

There are words in the Chinese language which have as many as forty different meanings.

You Can Be Cured.

No. 11 Cedar Terrace,

Box 3800, Astoria, April 25, 1905.

When I was first married I found that my strength and health were gradually diminishing. I became nervous and irritable, and was in bed a week and sometimes ten days every month, and had intense bearing down pains.

My husband had the best physician for me and I used his medicine for nearly four months, but I gradually grew worse, had less strength, and finally, I was unable to leave my bed at all.

A friend who was calling on me brought me a bottle of Wine of Cardui and was so loud in its praise that I told her that I would take it to please her.

I was surprised and pleased that before I had used the bottle I really felt better, so I kept on using it. Night bottles brought back my lost health and strength, and I have not had a sick day in six months.

Mrs. Finnegan had little hope of relief because she knew that every time she had those spells of menstrual suffering with attendant bearing down pains she was weaker. And every month the pain was growing more severe.

But Mrs. Finnegan was cured by Wine of Cardui. She is now as well that there are few women who would not be glad to have the health she has. And any woman who has those dreaded bearing down pains can have the same relief.

You can be free from menstrual irregularities if you take this pure vegetable wine. Why don't you take it when you see what it has done for others? Secure a bottle of Wine of Cardui today.

Your druggist has \$1.00 bottles.

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